GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1936
ANSWERED ON:10.08.2006
RAIL LINK WITH BHUTAN .
Sugavanam Shri E.G.

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a)Whether any feasibility studies have been conducted for extension of Indian Railway Network from the States of West Bengal and Assam to the nearest border towns in Bhutan;

(b) If so, the outcome thereof alongwith the routes identified in this regard; and

(c) The time by which rail links will be established between the two countries?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R.VELU)

(a) to (c): Feasibility Studies for the extension of Indian Railway network from the States of West Bengal and Assam to the nearest border towns in Bhutan have been taken up covering the following links:-

(i) Hasimara (West Bengal)-Phuentsholing (18 Kms) and bifurcation to Pasakha;

(ii) Kokrajhar (Assam)-Gelephu (70 Kms);

(iii) Pathsala (Assam)-Nanglam (40 Kms);

(iv) Rangia (Assam)-Samdrupjongkhar via Darranga (60 Kms); and

(v) Banarhat (West Bengal)-Samtse (16 Kms)

The decision regarding establishment of rail connectivity between the two countries will be taken up depending upon the results of the feasibility studies.